

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 17, 2001 LB 620

actual credits came in higher you're stuck, but it is the scheduling of credits that you wouldn't approve projects that schedule more than those expenditures. It may be hard to determine how much we should spend on this program from year to year. That may be hard to do. And as...and as I thought about it, it's hard to do in the context of other programs that we have for the state. It is hard to make those biennial decisions about how much to spend on the University of Nebraska. It's hard to make that decision about how much to spend on juvenile justice. It's hard to make that decision about all those other things that we spend money on. And the Appropriations Committee becomes the focal point for those decisions, they set off all the competing needs for our dollars against other needs, and then they make decisions and recommendations to us as 'a Legislature; we adopt it, send it over to the Governor, and sometimes it comes back okay, sometimes we have a little further discussion. Well, it occurs to me that instead of putting in a fixed dollar amount that we can apply that process to these programs. And we can do that by simply allowing and directing the Appropriations Committee to place a number in the budget. When we adopt a budget on a biennial basis it will have a number in it, and it will suggest to us that the board can approve projects that have credits that are scheduled to cost X number of dollars, and that number will vary from biennium to biennium, and could of course even be varied during the annual sessions, although I think we usually confine ourselves to what we would characterize as deficit appropriations. But that allows us to have a mechanism so that we can meet one of Senator Kristensen's objections, I think, and that is to adjust the amount so that it fits what we see as the needs of the time. We can adjust the amount so that it is an appropriate amount, whatever we determine that might be, to reduce uncertainty amongst the companies that might make applications for the benefit. It puts us into the context of a unified budget where the program, the reductions in revenues would be clear; you would know what we were budgeting to have as a reduction in revenues. I don't think that would be too difficult a process for the Appropriations Committee to undertake in the general context of the appropriations, and I think it fits. So I hope that you do as well. The amendment, I will reiterate briefly, takes out the language that would have any specific dollar cap for the credits